

LITERARY MISCELLANY.

For the National Era.

BELL SMITH ABROAD.

No. X.

THE OLD MASTERS.

DEAR FRIEND: I wrote my last in a positively ill spirit, and it was a fair picture of my own feeling that these beautiful city. I would not re-write a word there put in black and white, but only add, that such evils have their corresponding good. We do not have very honest dealing here, or kind treatment, but we have cheap remedies and grand old churches—the first, affording a striking contrast to our cities, are really regulated. You have but to note the moment of departure, and for forty cents per hour—no more or less—your ride much or little, in a carriage not unworthy a republican. The second appears to me the grand old remedy of a few years ago, and a different race. That the present self-satisfied, opinionated triflers could have been the children of simple faith, who reared these solemn temples, is something difficult of belief. One leaves the "Morgue," to be filled with awe and rapture at "Notre Dame," each looking at the other—both types of the different races and different times—the one, child like in the quality of his good feeling, without a murmur, the ill of this world as but so much preparation for one to come—bigoted, perhaps—perhaps blind, yet obedient and trusting; the other, wilful, desperate, and unbelieving. The one has given us "Notre Dame," the other presents the "Morgue." D. suggests that the first preferred killing others, as in the St. Bartholomew massacre—the last kills himself. Well, may be so; yet there is a wide difference.

I began saying that with every evil comes some good; and, if we are without honorable men and women as merchants, we have the galleries of the Louvre and Luxembourg. It is a great privilege to be within ten minutes of either. By referring to Galliani, you will see that the gallery called that of the Old Masters is eighteen hundred feet in length, and along each side are hung the results of art; and, what if they were destroyed to-morrow, all the gold and genius of the world could not restore them. The greater part, I confess, are for artists alone; but efforts are there, crowning works of immortal genius, that cannot fail to delight and elevate. I go every Sunday-day and sit for hours entranced before Murillo's great picture, "The Infant Jesus," the great artist brought, without loss of dignity, his great subject within the circle of blessed humanity. The child Jesus and the Holy Virgin are there—and there, too, are the proud, happy, beautiful, human mother, and the innocent, playful babe. As our old master used to tell us so eloquently, that "Christ, like Moses, touched the rock from whose heart leaped out the waters of salvation—not for the rich and well-born—not for the learned and powerful—but to wash down and purify the lowly people where they are oppressed and weary with burdens, may stoop, drink, and go away refreshed." With such feelings the artist has dealt with his subject—his holy mother and child are of us, and no mother who has felt the broad little hand upon her neck, can look on this otherwise than through tears.

Will we ever have such exhibitions of art and evidence of human genius in the United States? Are there galleries, really associated with weakness and corruption, may not a free land and a strong people possess them? I believe we may—and even anticipate fondly the day when, in Washington city, we may look down long vistas of genius, recording imperishably the greatness of our land. Art, with us, may be devaluated, and it belongs to a much-neglected class to undertake our education. Experience has shown, from first to last, that efforts on the part of the Government are worse than none. But artists themselves should take the matter in keeping. The public buildings at the capital are worthy of our people; let it be the earnest effort of every artist to paint one or more pictures worthy of the place, and present them to the Government, until a taste for the art shall be followed by a knowledge and true appreciation. That the President's house and the various government buildings, with all the evidences of taste and liberal expenditure otherwise, are without pictures, is a shame. I know that to call upon artists to correct this is to throw a huge task upon those already struggling sadly, and, in many instances, almost hopelessly, in poverty and neglect; but this casting of bread upon the waters, would, ere many days, repay well. A few such pictures as Leut's "Washington Crossing the Delaware," placed before the Representatives of the people, would in themselves produce a revolution. One eminent artist, one we already proud to own, has promised a historical picture, which I think our Government will be rich in possessing.

I have no intention, my dear friend, of attempting to put on paper either pictures or churches, or the feelings with which they animate me. I know too well the future eminent authors have accomplished in painting, to stand my little back on such a rock. I only say, much as I have to assure you that I see, appreciate, and love, all these rich stores opened before me. I am sorry in saying that I am alone in this. D., although far more cultivated than I, has no true appreciation of art. He calls sculpture stone-cutting, and considers painting merely a decorative art, something above gliding, but infinitely below architecture. He styles the old masters "old humbugs," and says it is beneath the dignity of a people to be enthused over such trifles. Above all, he has a contempt for what he calls art of criticism—the dictation which hangs its raptures on a great name, and goes wild over paintings which have long since faded from ordinary observation. It is to be presumed the artist did not set before the world a work requiring the best execution of the finest eye to see at all; and we are to presume that the ungovernable of time has gradually withdrawn the effort from our gaze, leaving cant to worship the frame. But this contempt for the false in criticism, carried him so far away, that he will not admire what is really beautiful. I know there are paintings in the Louvre, by immortal names, and valued at enormous sums, which require the brightest sunshine and the best eyes to trace out forms which have long since followed their great creator into the regions of the dead.

A young artist, here pursuing his studies—has a true child of genius and friend of ours—has a sad tale to tell. He cannot realize that such opinions are expressed in earnest, or that they are not born in ignorance. He vibrates between the two, sometimes getting exceedingly angry at what he takes for badinage, and at other periods ascribing the expressions to ignorance, and kindly undertaking to educate and enlighten. I shall never forget their first visit to the gallery of the Louvre. I watched them with such anxiety and considerable amusement. D. was pulled by your wild friend before a picture, and to see it, pushed like a child into the proper position.

"There, now, what say you to that? Gliding, isn't it? Call that gliding, if you dare."

"Well, it is not gliding, what is it?—what is your artist aiming at—what do you call it?"

"Call it?—why, it is called, That is Titian's great picture, if not his greatest. That is the Entombment!"

"Indeed! Well, what of it?"

"What of it?—why it is immortal; it is perfect; art can no further go. True artists worship it."

"I beg your pardon; but if art can no further go, art should never have started."

"Eh! what—how now? Show me a defect, if you can!"

"Well, the body placed in that way between the three men is either held up miraculously, or your artist knew very little of the weight of flesh and blood, as for the color!"

"But he was interrupted by the furious artist, who began gyrating about the room, shaking his hands, and vociferating too violently to speak plainly. He had a way, when excited, of pirouetting round in a sort of dance, which was to me irresistibly funny."

"I say they can hold him—anybody can see that certainly they can—any that—that knows anything—knows that?"

"I beg your pardon," responded D., seriously: "in matters of paint and pallet you are quite able to speak; but at a dead lift, my dear fellow, I am at home. And I say, with out hesitation, such an attempt to lift as that would kill Moses!"

"Confound it! you don't know anything about it! Now, I'll tell you we should hold him up in the same position, and with all ease."

"Thank you," responded D., dryly: "I don't care to be made a martyr of."

"But Doctor Bob, with a merry twinkle in his eye, proposed to make a lay figure of the artist, and, seizing him, the three began to stagger over the polished floor, pulling one from the other, and about twenty feet, all nearly fell down, and one of the guards duty interfered. Our enthusiastic instructor was not to be discouraged in this way; he pulled D. from old master to old master, all the time protesting and lecturing. He raised before us, representing an angel flying from a group of astonished people."

"Now, look at that! There is beauty! see the coloring, the expression, the distance, the handling, the action—note the action!"

"Certainly I do—very much action. I should say that fellow with wings was making at least fifty miles an hour; he ought, however, to be attached to a first class locomotive."

"L. went off again into his queer dance, and the violent gesticulation continued, with various expressions of outraged feelings and contempt, until they stopped to take a marine view, certainly a very beautiful thing."

"If you condemn this I am done. Now, only be candid, stand here—there's the ocean for you!"

"It is—well, all I have to say then is, if that is a fair representation of the sea, Christ walking on it was no miracle; it is hard as bricks."

"Outrage could go no further; our friend fairly boiled; the profanity was twice as violent, and continued until he ran backwards against a man, on a very high stool, busy copying a Venus."

While the discussion was going on, I had observed this little episode. He was not higher than my shoulder; he wore a hump-back, and looked at the world through spectacles. His face was wrinkled, partly by age and much by a sour nature, as if disgusted with the world; and, as his little face peered out, surrounded as it was by gray, bushy hair, and a few white, it resembled a little old, ragged, wretched, scolding, old woman. Whatever might be his contempt for things in general, he had a high regard for his work; for when our friend's cicerone fell against the stool, the little man might have saved himself, but he sought to save his picture. The result was, that the picture fell, and the little gentleman tumbled sprawling upon it—punching a hole in Venus's head, and altogether making a sad work of the affair. He regained his feet with face and clothes pressed, what D. called a "roof-sheet," and scolded terribly—the word "beat" being the most distinct and frequent. Our friend retorted. I could only hear the phrase "miserable dandy," when the capized ran at him, and we should have had a battle royal, but for the prompt interference of by-standers and guards.

While I write, the booming cannon announces to Paris the elevation of a bronze statue to the memory of Marshal Ney, upon the spot where he was executed. Poor man! he little dreamed, when looking at the cold gray light of a drizzling morning for the last time on earth, of the use to which his death would be put. It, like everything else here, is a political move; and while the Bourbons and Orleanists are rejoicing over their union, the Bonapartes, as the people where fell the blood of Ney, thunder their defiance.

ARNOLD'S, 54 STRAND, LONDON.

HEREBY constitute Mr. Simon Willard, No. 9 Congress Street, Boston, sole agent for the sale of my Watches in the United States of America.

April 15, 1853. CHARLES FRODHAM.

The undersigned, having been appointed sole Agent in the United States for the sale of Charles Frodham's Improved Timekeepers, watches, and chronometers, of his extensive and valuable stock of compensated Chronometer Watches, made by Charles Frodham, and styled his "New Series." In the Watches of the new series, Mr. Frodham has succeeded—by a more perfect method of compensation, a more correct adjustment in isochronism, and an entirely new and peculiar construction of the train, by which every variety of climate, and position, and size—in producing timekeepers of wonderful and unrivalled accuracy. The great importance of the improved Watches is a perfect regularity of time, under every variety of climate, position, and size. So perfect are the adjustments, that the most violent exercise—such as horseback riding, jumping, &c.—produces on them no sensible effect. They are therefore perfectly adapted for railroad purposes.

The scientific French critic, M. de Borendorf, in his review of the Great London Exhibition of 1851, writes to Parisian Correspondent of the "Protestant," "bearing the stamp of peculiar merit, and as being the flower of the English school."

The British Government have awarded Messrs. Arnold and Charles Frodham the sum of £2,170, for the excellence of the principle of their timekeepers. One of Mr. Frodham's correspondents writes as follows:

LONDON, April 26, 1852. Sir: I have much pleasure in giving an account of the Gold Compensation Lever Watch, No. 3,325, you have made for me, and in which I expressly stipulated that it should maintain a uniform rate of going under every variety of motion and climate. This watch has done in a remarkable manner; its rate of going for the first six months was five seconds per month, and in the next six months it changed its rate a little faster, viz: eight seconds per month, and in the next six days it was found to be fast of Green- wich mean time one minute and fifteen seconds. Though I was not led by any watchmaker, I am perfectly satisfied with its performance, yet I believe it is only the usual character of your improved watches, which you term your "new series."

I remain, Sir, yours, respectfully, THOMAS BARTLETT.

To Mr. Charles Frodham.

The undersigned has received the following:

Boston, October 5, 1853.

Sir: I herewith give you an account of the remarkable performance of the watch No. 3,325, you made for me, and in which I expressly stipulated that it should maintain a uniform rate of going under every variety of motion and climate. This watch has done in a remarkable manner; its rate of going for the first six months was five seconds per month, and in the next six months it changed its rate a little faster, viz: eight seconds per month, and in the next six days it was found to be fast of Greenwich mean time one minute and fifteen seconds. Though I was not led by any watchmaker, I am perfectly satisfied with its performance, yet I believe it is only the usual character of your improved watches, which you term your "new series."

I remain, Sir, yours, respectfully, THOMAS BARTLETT.

To Mr. Charles Frodham.

The undersigned has received the following:

Boston, September 3, 1853.

The compensated Lever Watch I purchased of you, made by Charles Frodham, No. 3,325, has done in a remarkable manner; its rate of going for the first six months was five seconds per month, and in the next six months it changed its rate a little faster, viz: eight seconds per month, and in the next six days it was found to be fast of Greenwich mean time one minute and fifteen seconds. Though I was not led by any watchmaker, I am perfectly satisfied with its performance, yet I believe it is only the usual character of your improved watches, which you term your "new series."

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To Mr. Charles Frodham.

The Daily Era can be had every morning at the Periodical Stand of Mr. J. T. Bates, Exchange, Philadelphia; also, the Weekly Era.

Mr. JAMES ELLIOTT is authorized to receive and receipt for subscriptions and advertisements for the Daily and the Weekly National Era, in Cincinnati and vicinity.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1854.

NEBRASKA—THE QUESTION.

The report of the Committee on Territories on the subject of Nebraska, appears to-day in the Era. We ask for it the serious attention of every reader. We are to understand that it presents the views of the Administration, and that the bill it recommends is to be urged as an Administration measure.

The report attempts to run a parallel between the condition of the Territories acquired from Mexico in 1848, and that of the Territory of Nebraska now, assimilating them with a view of enforcing the propriety of similar legislation in regard to them. It assumes, too, that the Compromise Measures of 1850 were intended to embrace in their provisions all the territory of the United States.

The whole of this part of the report is mischievously deceptive. The Compromise of 1850 embraced the admission of California as a State, the settlement of the Texas Boundary Question, the organization of the Territorial Governments of Utah and New Mexico, the abolition of Slave Importation into the District of Columbia, the Fugitive Slave Act, and a declaration, that thenceforth a State applying for admission into the Union should be admitted with or without Slavery, as its Constitution might prescribe. The only Territorial provisions of the Compromise related to New Mexico and Utah. No measures were proposed, no principles affirmed, in relation to any other Territories. Oregon had received a Government in 1848; the condition of the territory North of 36 deg. 30 min., east of the Rocky Mountains, had been settled by the act admitting Missouri into the Union in 1820. No body dreamed that the Compromise had anything to do with either: it is notorious that it had nothing to do with either. The report drags them within its scope, simply to secure a pretext for re-affirming in the Nebraska bill, the Pro-Slavery declaration of the Compromise.

Nor is it less deceptive when it undertakes to assimilate the condition of newly-acquired Mexican Territories in 1850, with that of Nebraska in 1853. American Law had not been extended over those Territories. The law excluding Slavery had been enacted while they were a portion of Mexico. The questions arose—Did this law continue in force after their annexation? Was it abrogated by their separation from the Sovereign Power that had enacted it? Was it abrogated by the Constitution of the United States? These questions were debated with great vehemence; and so nearly equal was the division of opinion, that the Anti-Slavery party, which for a time was in fact in the ascendant, insisted that, to prevent all danger, and settle the condition of the Territories once for all, it was the duty of Congress to provide by positive enactment against the existence of Slavery therein.

But, no such questions have arisen, or could arise, in relation to Nebraska. It is a part of the Territory acquired from France, and its condition as it respects Slavery has been settled, by American Law, for an entire generation. There were dreamers, at times, who questioned theoretically the validity of that Law: nobody ever made a practical question on this point. It has been the universal understanding that the condition of this Territory is fixed. In no respect, then, can the circumstances of Nebraska now be compared with those of New Mexico and Utah in 1850, so that the inference can be drawn, that the bill to organize the former should be framed like those under which the latter were organized, or that the bill to organize the latter should be framed like those under which the former were organized. It is clearly illogical and impertinent.

For the first time in the legislation of this country for thirty-three years, the validity of this act of 1820 is brought into question. The report mischievously and groundlessly assumes that there are similar radical and wide-spread differences of opinion in relation to its constitutionality, that prevailed in relation to the validity of the Mexican Law excluding Slavery from New Mexico, and that therefore the same Compromise is necessary in relation to Nebraska, that was adopted in 1850. Hence, the bill is framed after the model of the Utah Territorial bill, with its provisions for determining before the courts the question of Personal Liberty.

Is the reader now prepared, to understand why we are indignant at this incorporation into the bill of the declaration of the Compromise of 1850, in regard to the future admission of States, although it does not formally and in terms touch the relations of the Territory to Slavery so long as it is a Territory? It is because the doctrine and assumptions of the Report, accompanying the Bill, and the fact that the Bill itself is framed after the model of the Utah Bill, which leaves that Territory without any safeguard against Slavery, constrain us to believe that, whatever may have been the intentions of Mr. Douglas, the Slaveholders propose through this legislative demonstration, should it secure the assent of Congress, to regard the Missouri Compromise Proviso as virtually repealed, and the whole of the Territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. thrown open to Slavery! We would not admit that the deceptive bill, even if it passed—which God in his infinite mercy forbid!—had repealed that Compromise, or subverted Freedom in the Territory—but the minions of the Slave Power would take a different view—and, for one, not to the Supreme Court would we trust the adjudication of the question of Personal Liberty arising under such a bill. We mean no disrespect to the members of this Tribunal, but in its decisions in relation to Questions of Slavery, we are constrained to assert that its action has almost uniformly been repugnant to the spirit of Freedom. Law is uncertain; its technicalities open a wide field for construction, in which a large discretion is left to Judges, who cannot plead exemption from Prejudice, Preconception, the influences of Education, or the insidious workings of Self-Interest. So far as we know, the rule with the Supreme Court, in cases growing out of negro Slavery, has been, to give to Slavery rather

than to Liberty the benefit of a doubt. In the case of Dr. Eak, a citizen of Illinois, arraigned and convicted under a State Law on the subject of Fugitives from Service or Labor, the Court held the Law to be valid, although in the famous Prigg case it expressly declared that all State laws on the subject, in aid or in derogation of the owner's right of reclamation, were null and void! We say, plainly, then, that this Nebraska bill, if passed, will open, by its insidious and doubtful provisions, so wide a field for judicial construction, that we should expect to see any Question of Personal Liberty arising under it, decided against Freedom by the Supreme Court.

We appeal to the Representatives of non-slaveholding constituencies in Congress. The great question is submitted to you—a greater you will probably never be called upon to decide—will you permit your constituents, by a species of legislative legerdemain, to be swayed out of the single bond gained from the Missouri Compromise?

The Pro-Slavery part of the "bargain" has been fulfilled to the letter. Under it, Slave States have been organized; but now, when the Anti-Slavery part of the contract is to be carried out, the Slave Power resists, and an Administration under its domination ideologically suggests a plan by which, through Northern votes, it may rob the North of the magnificent heritage, secured for an entire generation, to Freedom. In violation of law, in utter contempt of what the youth of our country have been taught to consider a solemn covenant, the vast Territory above 36 deg. 30 min., and beyond Iowa, is to be thrown open to Slavery, so that a cordon of slaveholding States may be drawn round the Free West. The poor emigrant from the Slave States, the landless Yankee, the impoverished foreigner, fleeing for refuge to our shores, have hitherto rejoiced that they might find a home in the Free, rich, and unoccupied territory of the Union, where, safe from Want, exempt from degrading competition with Slave Labor, away from the rich man's scorn, and the grinding of oppression, they could rear their children in republican simplicity, and build up new States, exemplifying Democratic institutions in all their purity.

But the Slavery propagandists, in their mad passion for Negro Slavery, and the political power they manufacture out of it, would shut them out from all this broad domain, and cover it, as they have covered the fertile plains of the South, with plantations of overgrown landlords, and herds of squalid slaves.

Kill that nefarious Bill, or it will give the Slave Power an ascendancy in this country, the terrible results of which no mind can fathom. Let the House of Representatives rally: away with all contemptible bickerings about "Hard" and "Soft"; let us have no more flummery about Baltimore platforms, and the wonderful virtues of the Compromise of 1850 in allaying sectional strife; let us cease to wrangle about the claims of demagogues to the Presidential succession. Give us a simple Bill for the organization of a Territorial Government over Nebraska, omitting any impertinent references to the issues of 1850, or any premature declarations respecting States to be organized out of it; but, if there must be a reference to Slavery, let it be made in the language of the Proviso of the Missouri Act of 1820, which has always shielded it against Slavery, and the efficacy of which has never before been drawn in question.

"AFRICANIZATION OF CUBA."

What a flat humbug has the clamor of the "organ" and kindred prints, about the Africanization of Cuba, proved to be! The special correspondent of the New York Daily Times, who still feebly reiterates the ridiculous story, furnishes documents to that paper which fully expose its absurdity. The first paper is a translation of an ordinance issued by the new Captain General, Pezuela, dated December 27, 1853, declaring "the freedom of the most antique of the emancipados who remain in the despotic, and who belong to the various prizes which were made prior to the year 1835," and giving directions for their wages and treatment. The second paper is a translation of a proclamation enjoining the more stringent enforcement of the acts prohibiting the importation of African slaves, and announcing certain regulations for the introduction of free laborers—not from Africa, reader, but from other parts of the world.

"But as this is an extensive coast, it is so difficult that the total extinction of a traffic that supports the interests of a great many far stronger and more vigorous than the corrective measures that the authority can put in action, accordingly the demonstration and efficacy of the employers of our faithful and powerful allies in their numerous and vigilant cruisers, and ours in the prosecution, that greater or less acclamation has been made to indicate the object, as the rural properties have every day, from the recent mortality of slaves, and from their great and increasing spread, more necessity for hands to apply to their cultivation, and their industry makes it more indispensable to proceed substituting for that which until now has existed exclusively, another work which will temper the stimulation of private enterprise, and increase the particular interests, in assisting the bona fide intentions of our Queen, and of the sacred obligations entered into."

"I mean to say to you, that I refer to the introduction of daily laborers, free Indians, Asiatics, or Spaniards; therefore in the offer of the Government without exception, but at the same time without any privilege to avail all the particular contracts that will be made under the guarantee of the Government, and protected by the inclusive regulations that they will have present at the time of proceeding for security and with effect."

In consequence, you will cause to be published, and the greater the circulation the better, to the disposition and to the said regulations, the only that will be observed hereafter, declaring those without effect which have governed until this date."

What becomes of the scheme of Cuban Africanization? Is it not found written in the chronicles of the Union? Even this correspondent of the Times is reduced to an inference. Free Laborers from other parts of the world, he says, cannot be imported into Cuba, and labor there; therefore, in the end, Africans must be brought in!

REVENUE SERVICE.—Captain Nones, of the schooner Forward, during the month of December, furnished provisions to ten vessels in distress, amounting to \$180.74, and rescued a large number of persons from suffering, and some of them from death.

LITERARY NOTICE.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE WORLD TO COME. By Alfred Bryant, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Niles, Michigan. New York: Published by M. W. Dodd. One volume. Sold by Gray & Ballantyne, 7th street, Washington.

The design of this little book, as its name imports, is to make "Heaven appear brighter than earth;" to lure the wandering thought away from the trifles that surround us, to those higher hopes and holier pursuits which are the results of Christian faith. It is a simple, serious, candid examination of our relations to the eternal world, showing the dignity and beauty of a life of holiness; and, with a gentle, persuasive influence, bending the thoughts and desires of the heart toward Heaven, as the summer grass bends to the sweep of the evening breeze. Without any great originality of thought or brilliancy of diction, the author has succeeded in placing before his readers "The World to Come" in a most attractive light; and it is evident that his own soul is deeply imbued with the truths of which he discourses so pleasantly. It is Heaven, and not himself, which he sets before us. To use his own words, he has, "like a skillful botanist, diligently gathered up the flowers of truth, which bloom and wave over the sunny fields of Revelation," and combined them into a system, whereby "a scheme of blessedness is made known to man, capable of enrapturing the soul, and drawing the pious heartward, with a power which no earthly attraction can weaken, or effectually retard."

The chapter on "The Resurrection of the Body," and "The Repose of the Soul," we have read with especial pleasure. We recommend the book heartily, earnestly, to all who would enjoy beforehand the pure and elevated happiness of that "better land." Those who sincerely desire to be instructed in the right way will be profited by this little work, and will rise from its perusal with a more earnest desire after those things which are eternal, and a greater longing for holiness and heaven.

THE MASSACRE OF CAPTAIN GUNNISON AND HIS PARTY.

Hon. John M. Bernhisel, the Delegate in Congress from Utah, publishes a card in one of our city papers, defending the Mormons from the charge made against them in the Missouri Democrat, to the effect that they, and not the Indians, had been guilty of the massacre. After reading this defence, we must confess that the charge appears to us as wearing no appearance of probability. Mr. Bernhisel says that—

"The Mormons are not so isolated from the world as the writer of the article in question represents. They have among them many persons who are engaged in commercial and other pursuits, who adhere to the religion taught them in their native States, in the eastern part of this Confederacy. The Mormons tolerate all creeds, and desire to proscribe none; and being thus a mixed community, what escape could they expect from discovery, if disposed to stain themselves with blood?"

We are pleased with the assurances here given, and shall be glad to see a very ample demonstration of them before the people of that Territory are prepared to ask for admission into our fraternity of States.

ANOTHER MUNICIPAL TROUBLE IN NEW YORK.—The newspapers of New York use strong, terse, energetic, and expressive English in all their personalities, but especially when a brother editor or a city councilman is the subject of their comment. An important matter is introduced to public notice, through the columns of the Courier and Enquirer, in an article of some length, from which we quote the first paragraph only. It is as follows:—

"Among the expiring acts of our late Common Council, of happy memory, was one which has attracted less notice than its importance demands. Not because the subject is without public interest, but because it has been lost sight of in the wilderness of corruption and profligacy that makes the reign of the departed boards memorable in our civic history; we refer to the resolution to carry Albany street through Trinity churchyard, now awaiting the signature of the Mayor to become a law. Its object is to disturb the remains of the thousands who rest in the consecrated ground, which is to be torn up by the proposed 'improvement,' and to double the millions of a few great landholders, who for years have been striving to accomplish this result."

THE REPORTED DISASTER TO THE STEAMER SAN FRANCISCO.—We yesterday apprised our readers of the reported probable loss of this steamer, and our telegraphic despatches to-day may yet bring to us further particulars. It appears that she was seen about 300 miles east of Cape Henlopen, and 260 E. S. E. of Sandy Hook. She was new and staunchly built, and well officered.

She was destined for San Francisco, via the Straits of Magellan, touching at Rio Janeiro, Valparaiso, and Acapulco. She sailed from New York on the 21st ult., and had on board companies A, B, G, H, I, K, and L, of the 3d Regiment of U. S. Artillery. These companies, with staff and band, constituted a crew of about 500 men. Among her passengers were Mr. George Applewall, Capt. J. W. T. Gardiner, of the 1st Dragoons, who intended to join his regiment in California, and Lieut. F. K. Murray, of the Navy, who intended to join the squadron at Rio; also, the following list of army officers and their families: Col. Wm. Gates, commanding regiment; Major and Brevet Lieut. Col. J. M. Washington; Maj. Chas. S. Marchant; Surgeon R. S. Satterlee; Assistant Surgeon H. R. Wirtz; First Lieut. S. L. Fremont, Regimental Quartermaster and Acting Adjutant; First Lieut. L. Lozer, Acting Assistant Commissary; Capt. and Brevet Lieut. Col. M. Burke, commanding company; Captain and Brevet Maj. George Taylor, commanding company A; Captain and Brevet Maj. F. O. Wyse, commanding company D; Capt. H. B. Field, commanding company B and L; First Lieut. and Brevet Capt. H. B. Field, commanding company K; First Lieut. W. A. Winder, commanding company G; First Lieut. C. S. Winder, commanding company H; First Lieut. R. H. Smith; Second Lieut. J. Van Voast; Brevet Second Lieut. J. G. Chandler.

Officers' families.—Mrs. Gates and three children, Miss Carter, Mrs. Marchant, Mrs. Chase and son, Mrs. Fremont and three children, Mrs. Lozer, Miss Eaton, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Wyse and child, Mrs. Judd. There were also on board a large number of soldiers' wives and their children.

We annex a list of the officers of the San Francisco: J. T. Watkins, commander; Edward Mellus, 1st officer; Geo. Gratton, 2d do; Chas. F. Barton, 3d do; John Mason, 4th do; J. W. Marshall, chief engineer; A. Auchincloss, 1st engineer; Jas. Farnsworth, 2d do; David Dunham, 3d do; James Crosby, 3d do; B. Donaghan, 3d do; C. Hoffman, 3d do.

THE PRIZE THAT WAS NOT AWARDED.—R. W. Latham, the banker, a short time since proposed to give five hundred dollars for the best "national poem, ode, or epic;" but a disinterested committee declared that no best had been presented; whereupon, certain editors, instead of scolding the poets for not writing well, or the best of them for not writing at all, turn to and lecture Mr. Latham for, we know not what, unless it be that he did not offer five thousand instead of five hundred dollars, as the prize. A Cincinnati paper speaks out on this subject, and says, that "none of the poets of established reputation, whose writings command cash any day, would compete for such a prize," &c. But this is all moonshine. Poetry is not a profitable product in our country; and this prize, and the honor of being the victor in the contest, were sufficient to arouse the energies of the best of those who would write at all from such inducements. Mr. Latham was willing and anxious to pay five hundred dollars for a purpose in which he had no more personal interest than the rest of us, and he has much regretted that the judges selected to decide the matter could not award his proffered prize to some successful contestant. The remarks that have been made in relation to this matter are equally unjust and ridiculous.

THE ISLAND OF CUBA.—Two proclamations lately issued by the Captain General of Cuba, are described as declaring—the first, the Freedom of the emancipados found on the various prizes made prior to the year 1835, alleging that they are at liberty to serve any master they please, at wages not less than six dollars per month for each male, and four dollars per month for each female, subject to a deduction to indemnify the master for freeing him or her; and the other denouncing the foreign slave trade, and closing with an authority for the introduction of free laborers, consisting of Indians, Asiatics, and Spaniards.

RAILROAD TO THE PACIFIC.—Hon. the usually well-posted writer for the Baltimore Sun, states in that paper of this morning that the Select Committee of nine Senators on the Pacific railroad will be announced by the President *pro tem.*; that Mr. Gwin will be